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9 June 1961

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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE BULLETIN



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State Dept. review completed

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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE BULLETIN

CONTENTS

25X1

- [REDACTED]
2. Dominican Republic. (*Page ii*)

[REDACTED] 25X1

4. Communist China - India: Peiping's foreign minister criticizes "increasing closeness" of Indian-US relations. (*Page iii*)

[REDACTED] 25X1

6. Panama: One of coalition parties joins campaign calling for break in relations with Castro. (*Page iv*)

[REDACTED] 25X1

Next 1 Page(s) In Document Exempt

*Dominican Republic: Dominican authorities may be having some success in creating the impression that the regime is turning away from the ruthless policies of the past. The presence of the OAS subcommittee, which arrived in the Dominican Republic on 7 June, will temporarily hamper General Ramfis Trujillo in any public manifestation of his drive to consolidate his position in the armed forces.

On 7 June his public relations adviser remarked to a newsmen that General Jose Roman, minister of defense, had "escaped." He had earlier been reported under arrest, and yesterday a presidential decree formally removed him from his post. General Roman, believed friendly to the US, is known to have had personal difficulties with Ramfis in the past and to have had contact with dissident elements prior to the assassination. Ramfis probably considers Roman's elimination a necessary step in gaining full control of the armed forces.

25X1

Official Dominican allegations on 7 June that the assassination of Trujillo was part of a "vast conspiracy with ramifications in a foreign country" are probably a prelude to an effort to implicate Venezuelan President Betancourt. This charge, which could probably be backed up by the Dominicans with plausible evidence, could be used in an attempt to urge removal of the OAS sanctions imposed against the Dominican Republic last August and prompted by Trujillo's effort to kill Betancourt. The American Consulate believes that the now-publicized contacts which a private American citizen had with the dissidents may later be used in an effort to implicate the United States, if this should serve the regime's purposes.

25X1

The Venezuelan foreign minister told Ambassador Moscoso yesterday that Colombia, earlier reported as reluctant to join possible joint action against the Dominican regime, is now agreeable to advancing the date of Venezuelan-Colombian joint fleet maneuvers previously agreed on for 18 to 25 June, and to moving its participating vessels from Colombian waters to the vicinity of the Dominican Republic. The Colombian vessels will consist of two destroyers and a frigate. Venezuela will have three destroyers participating. Both countries are agreeable to continuing the maneuvers as long as necessary. A Venezuelan navy captain was to leave for Colombia yesterday to serve as liaison between the two fleet units.

25X1

25X1

9 June 61

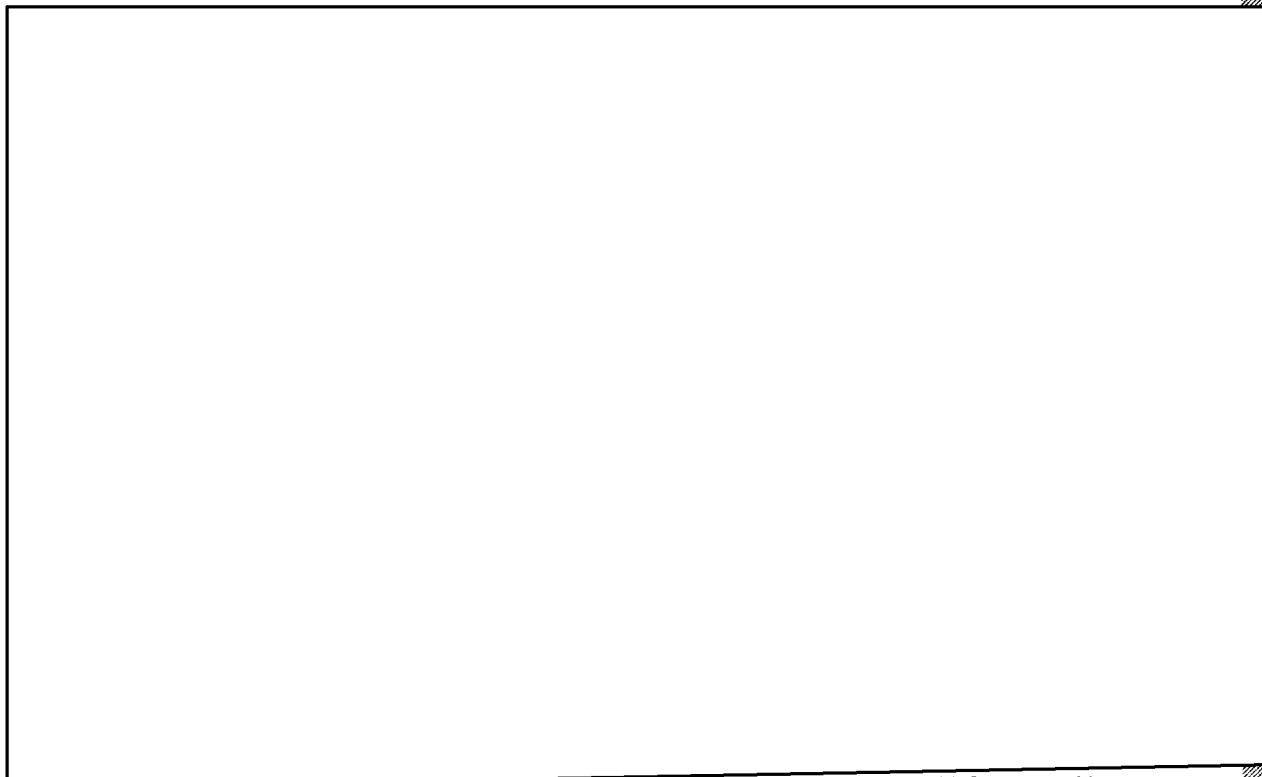
DAILY BRIEF

ii

25X1

25X1

25X1



25X1

Communism/China - India: [Peiping has apparently all but written off any chance for the present of normalizing its strained relations with New Delhi. Foreign Minister Chen Yi complained recently [redacted] of the "increasing closeness" in relations between Washington and New Delhi. Chen also criticized Prime Minister Nehru's "determination to fulfill, with no excessive modesty," the role of spokesman for the Indian bourgeoisie. He said that these considerations, together with Nehru's fear that China's "enormous accomplishments" would seduce the impoverished Indian masses, accounted for India's unfriendly attitude and its "periodic fomentation" of border incidents. Chen's statements have been echoed by Chinese diplomats in New Delhi, and Chinese propaganda attacks on India's growing economic alignment with the US and the West have sharply increased during the

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25X1

9 June 61

DAILY BRIEF

iii

25X1

25X1

[past few months. Chen also expressed satisfaction over what he termed the stronger public stand now being taken by the USSR against Nehru's foreign policy, implying that Moscow had been taken in for a time by Indian duplicity.]

25X1

25X1

Panama: [Business and church groups which for several months have been urging the Panamanian Government to break relations with Castro have stepped up their campaign. Their efforts have received support this week in a manifesto from an important element of the government coalition--the Republican party led by Second Vice President Bazan. The Chiari government still maintains, however, that it will act against Cuba only on a multilateral basis.] [REDACTED] (Backup, Page 4)

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25X1

(Available during the preceding week)

Short-term Prospects in South Korea: Significance of the May 1961 Military Coup Led by Major General Pak and Probable Trends Over the Next Few Months. U.S.I.B. SNIE 42-2-61. 31 May 1961. [REDACTED]

25X1

9 June 61

DAILY BRIEF

iv

25X1

Next 2 Page(s) In Document Exempt

Pressure on Panamanian Government to Break Relations
With Castro

[A group of Catholic students staged an organized demonstration on 2 June petitioning President Chlari to break relations with Cuba, to intercede on behalf of two Panamanian-born student leaders held by Castro, and to enforce the act outlawing communism in Panama. News media, more outspoken and influential in Panama than in many Latin American countries, are concentrating on anti-Communist, anti-Castro material, and business groups reportedly are trying to organize a commercial and industrial shutdown until Chlari severs relations. This general shutdown, now planned to start on Monday, 12 June, is said to be receiving widespread popular support.]

[Foreign Minister Solis has received Cuban diplomats coldly, warned them against continued interference in internal Panamanian affairs, and succeeded in having at least three of them, including the ambassador, withdrawn. Pro-Castro agitators are under surveillance, and several have been arrested for short periods.]

[The Panamanian Government has said that it maintains relations with Cuba primarily to offer asylum to Cubans seeking protection, but it probably sees the issue as a good bargaining point with the US.]

[the Cuban chargé in Panama had specific instructions to avoid any provocation that might cause a diplomatic break because Panama was an important transit point for travel of Cuban personnel.]

[The stand taken by the Republican party in its manifesto--which emphasized also Panama's need for social and economic reforms--is probably at least partially a political move by the party's effective head, Second Vice President Jose Bazan. He is a bitter enemy of Finance Minister Gilberto Arias, whose family wields great influence in Panamanian foreign policy, and Bazan may feel that by backing a break with Castro he will attract both US and conservative Panamanian approval of his presidential ambitions.]

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